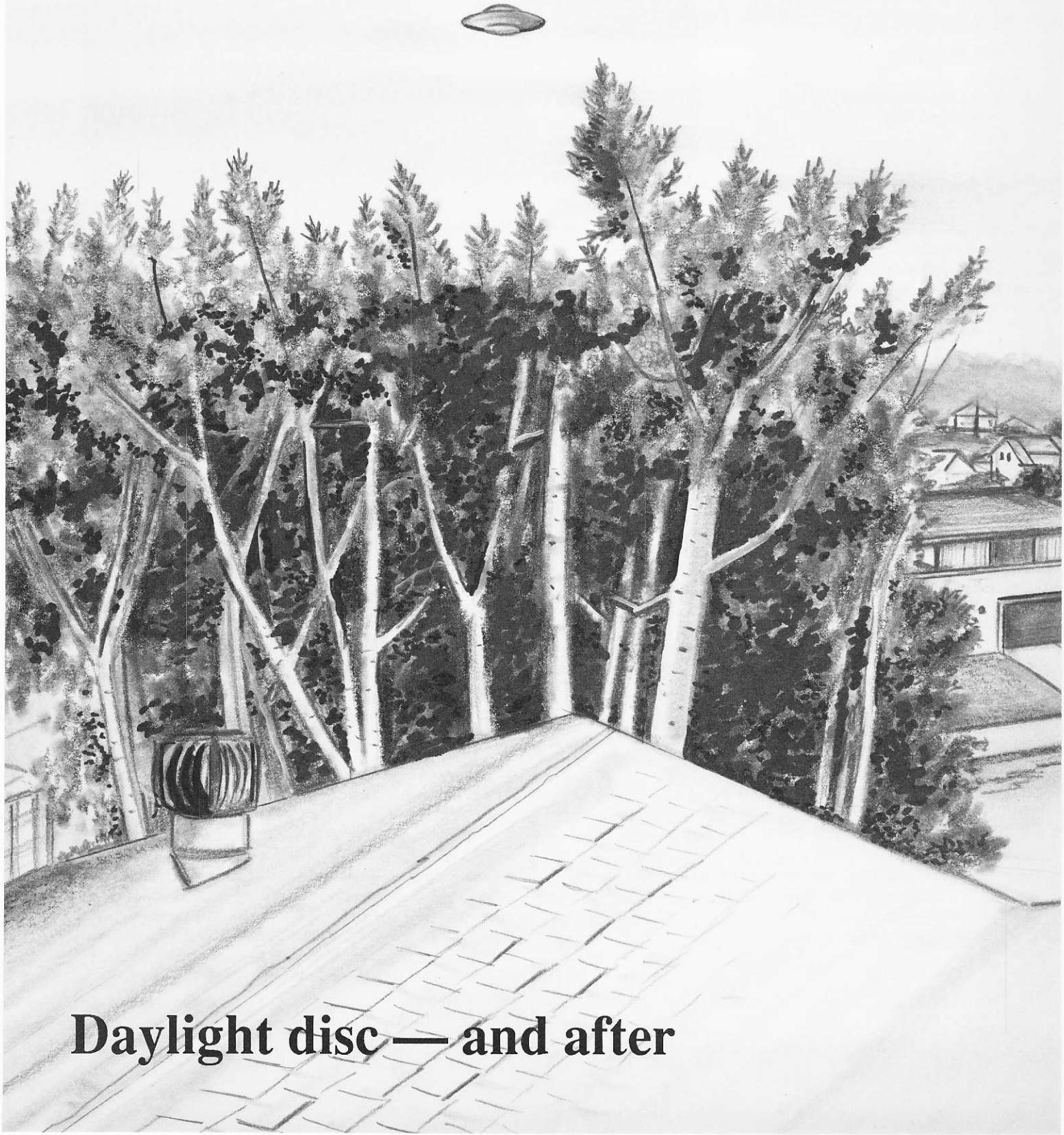
IUR
International UFO Reporter

May/June 1989
Volume 14, Number 3



Daylight disc — and after

INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER

Editor:
Jerome Clark

Associate Editor:
Nancy Clark

Consulting Editor:
Richard Hall

Contributing Editors:
Bill Chalker
George M. Eberhart
Richard F. Haines
Jenny Randles
Mark Rodeghier
Chris Rutkowski

Artists:
Ron Miller
Don Schmitt

J. Allen Hynek
1910 - 1986

EDITORIAL	3
Dual victims: the abused and the abducted *by Rima E. Laibow*	4
CE3 — and CE2? *by Ann Druffel*	10
Starry night *by Paul Davids*	13
Billy, no; Ed, yes *by Bruce Maccabee*	16
How to take your own Gulf Breeze photos *by Wim van Utrecht*	20

International UFO Reporter (ISSN, 0720-174X) is published bimonthly by the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, 2457 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60659. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited. Copyright© 1989 by the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies. Third class postage paid at Glenview, Illinois.

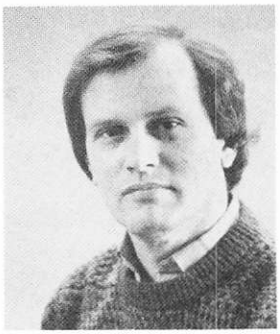
Address all editorial correspondence to *International UFO Reporter*, Jerome Clark, editor, 612 North Oscar Avenue, Canby, Minnesota 56220.

Address all subscription correspondence to *International UFO Reporter*, 2457 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60659.

The *International UFO Reporter* is a benefit publication mailed to Associates of the Center for a contribution of $25.00 or more. Foreign Associates add $10.00 for delivery. All amounts in U.S. funds. Other publications also available for contributors of larger amounts. For details, write to the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, 2457 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60659, USA. Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to CUFOS, 2457 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60659.

EDITORIAL

Gullibility and other errors



Jerome Clark

Gullibility is one of those words — skepticism is another — that have been reduced in our time to self-serving slogans which mean, in many cases, just what the speaker or writer wants them to mean. There was a time when "gullibility" about UFO stories meant something clear and obvious, for example when contactee hucksters used to tell tales they could barely relate with a straight face and yet be believed even when caught red-handed in fraud.

Gullibility can be defined as belief in a claim for which the negative evidence unambiguously outweighs the positive evidence (if any). By "negative evidence" I do not mean simply "negative assertion." Negative assertions about UFOs in general and UFO reports in particular abound, and they range from the thoughtful and reasoned to the ignorant and crazy. (The same can be said, of course, for positive assertions.) The test of any assertion, negative or positive, is how well it stands up to challenge. If a positive assertion is met with a negative counterassertion, the latter will stand if there is no effective response. (Which is why such claims as ancient astronauts, the Bermuda Triangle and cattle mutilations are rejected by serious UFO proponents.) In other words, a claim can be judged credible (i.e., acceptable to reasonable persons) if its proponents successfully answer their critics.

A successful response is not one in which the critics are simply called names, any more than a successful critique is one in which (as prominent debunkers have done) proponents are simply labeled credulous dupes, religious fanatics, antiscience zealots, ambulatory schizophrenics, de facto Soviet agents or money-grubbing charlatans. (For other colorful characterizations of ufologists and other anomalists, see any issue of *Skeptical Inquirer* or CSICOP press release.) If names must be called, call them only after the *real* arguments have been made, and even then you'd better be able to show why you're accusing those you don't like of all those terrible tendencies. After all, in real life these people may be no more than wrong, as who isn't sometimes?

Being wrong is not necessarily, or even often, the same thing as being gullible. One can make a reasonable case, based on the limited evidence available at a given moment, for a particular proposition — even if when further evidence comes to light that proposition turns out to be mistaken. Gullibility rears its dizzy head only when one persists in believing something in spite of significant new disconfirming evidence. And that irrational belief need not necessarily be in UFO claims that support the extraterrestrial hypothesis. From an objective point of view, persons who continue to believe debunkers' hypotheses after they have been falsified (as has happened, for example, with the beloved "confabulation" explanation of abduction narratives; see Thomas E. Bullard's landmark paper in the new *Journal of UFO Studies*) are gullible, too.

It is well to remember that one can win the argument and still be wrong. Some people, better debaters than others, employ more sophisticated rhetorical strategies which may mask weaker cases. (George Bernard Shaw once witnessed a debate in which a flat-earther trounced a proponent of the round earth.) Or the available evidence may point in a misleading direction, giving one side a temporary advantage.

I have no idea — to cite a couple of current examples — what the outcomes of the debates about MJ-12 and Gulf Breeze will be, but I think most of you will agree that so far the proponents are winning the argument; yet we must keep in mind that these controversies have a long way to go before they are truly resolved and in the end, when we know more than we know now, matters may look radically different. Even then, even if one day we should know with certainty that these were hoaxes, the proponents (or at least the best of them) will not have been proven "gullible." The Gulf Breeze photos, after all, withstood at least the first round of analysis; MJ-12, a reasonable concept given the reality of the Roswell incident (against which no serious skeptical case has yet been shown to exist), stood unscathed against sustained attack by both ufologists and debunkers even as an interesting circumstantial case for it surfaced through hard investigative work by Stanton Friedman. Gulf Breeze and the MJ-12 briefing paper, if hoaxes, are the two best hoaxes in UFO history, and one need not have been a fool to be fooled by them.

One of the enduring cliches of the debate about

continued on page 22

Dual victims: the abused and the abducted

by Rima E. Laibow

■■ **Rima E. Laibow, M.D., is a psychiatrist who lives and practices in Westchester County, New York.**

It should be noted the terms "alien abduction" and "abductee" refer to the reported scenarios and anyone reporting the abduction phenomenon. The author makes no attempt to ascribe any reality to such reports.

One of the most intriguing aspects of alien abductions and abductees is the frequency with which child abuse is reported by the same individuals. The abuse may be physical or sexual and represents, of course, highly charged material for each person reporting it. Taken at face value, the reports of abuse comprise a sad and troubling strand of experience. When these two types of unhappy experience are reported often by the same people, it compels us to ponder several questions about abused abductees:

- Demographically, psychologically and emotionally, who are the abused?
- Who were their abusers?
- What was the abuse, and
- Is the abuse consistent with patterns of abuse in the general population?

I refer to abductees who suffered abuse during childhood as dual victims. They experience themselves as victims of their parents and as victims of nonhumans as well. In the mind of the child, whether the abuse occurred at the hand of the parent or occurred because the parent failed to protect the child, the parent is held culpable at some level. Recent findings indicate that as many as 40 percent of women and 16 percent of men have been sexually molested one or more times before reaching adulthood. It is clear that physical abuse is considerably more common than sexual abuse in the general population. It should come as no surprise, then, that, once the inquiry is made, a large number of abductees report abusive experiences in their lives. Sadly, we live in a society which only recently has begun to limit the sorts of activities which are allowed upon the bodies of our young. Sadly, too, there are many people who do not endorse the notion of what constitutes a safe environment in which a child may grow without fear and violation strongly enough to provide it unfailingly.

We must ask, however, whether there is a particular relationship between abduction and abuse. Pertinent to this is the question of whether there is, in fact, a demonstrable increase in the absolute number of cases of child abuse among abductees relative to the general population. It is my clinical impression that there is such an enrichment. In my work with abductees significantly more than half are dual victims.

Some writers suggest that the origin of the abduction scenario rests squarely in this fact. They point to the inability of abused children to process and detoxify the abuse that they received at the hands of cruel, but fully terrestrial, parents and their agents. Although it fails totally to deal with the presence of abduction scenarios from persons who have never suffered child abuse of any sort, this explanation does have an appealing simplicity. This notion of the causality of the abduction scenario has in its favor the fact that it is readily understood, relatively nonthreatening and fairly straightforward. It allows us to consign the entire abduction phenomenon to a known (and therefore comfortable) variety of defensive distortion by damaged egos.

Unhappily, the data do not make this an easy interpretation to support. Aside from abduction among the nonabused, this explanation does violence to the notion of repression and screen memories in a rather profound way. This distorted memory etiology for abductions posits that the actual (i.e., terrestrial) abusive event is so intolerable to the victim that it necessitates the production of screen memories entailing alien manipulation and abuse. It is, however, perplexing that the victim consciously recalls and reports the abuse which is supposed to be intolerable for him to recall. Either with or without hypnosis (and before or after it) proponents of this etiology must account for the odd fact that the clinical picture shows us simultaneous conscious retention of the intolerable trauma side by side with the screen memory meant to cover, detoxify and disguise it. We must then confront the interesting theoretical question of why (and how) the repression of the intolerable trauma is completely unaccomplished and the trauma coexists with its protective screen memory.

This is even more interesting when we note that although there is no deficit in clear, explicit and vivid conscious recall of the traumatic abuse, the more acceptable screen memory (i.e., the abduction) frequently lies buried deeply within the unconscious mind of the patient. It is totally unavailable to serve the ordinary purposes of screen memory in at least 75 percent of the abduction cases we know of until it is liberated through special techniques such as hypnosis or facilitated recall. Abduction scenarios therefore present us with yet another way in which they are thoroughly anomalous. The distorted memory theory fails to provide an explanation or mechanism for:

- The consistent nature and content of the abduction reports as opposed to the diversity of ordinary screen memory content;
- The physical manifestations found in many cases (e.g., scars, corneal irritation, burns);
- The presence of similar abduction scenarios in the unabused, or,
- The emergence of these scenarios under hypnosis, an uncommon mode of presentation for screen memories.

Thus abduction scenarios represent a highly divergent and novel kind of screening compared to the more familiar situation. If trauma that is intolerably affect-bearing for the patient, especially for a child, occurs, it must be processed in some way that maintains the psychological integrity of the child's inner world. It may, therefore, be replaced by a less affect-laden memory especially created for the purpose. This detoxified memory is of a symbolically related, but relatively innocuous, metaphorized version of the experience. Unlike the initial assault, this memory can be handled by the fragile ego of the child with less danger of disintegration of the ego. In this case, however, the situation presented by the clinical data is strikingly different. It has been my repeated experience that for dual victims a reverse of the above process does, in fact, occur.

Interestingly, the number of dual victims seems to be even higher than the initial interviews suggest. Although it is fully available to the conscious mind of the abductee, the history of terrestrial abuse may be protected until after the initial sessions have occurred. The victim may feel such a sense of shame and guilt that this ugly secret must be hidden until a trusting relationship has emerged with the therapist. At the point at which a therapeutic alliance has solidified sufficiently to allow for such a charged confidence to be shared with the therapist, the abuse history will be offered.

It should be noted that this delayed report represents conscious sequestering of information, not repression of the material to an unconscious position. It has been withheld intentionally although it has been readily available to the victim all along. Personal variables govern at what point the disclosure takes place but the phenomenon described below is the same whether that confidence had been made before the investigation has begun or not.

What often occurs in working on this material is that "opening up" the abduction material leads the patient to a spontaneous reassessment of the terrestrial abuse. After recall or investigation of the abduction scenario, he begins to reintegrate rapidly and intensely the specific meaning and content, affect and significance of previously-recalled, consciously-remembered abuse. He is now able to process the early trauma with the analytic, cognitive, affective and emotional capacities of his current level of development. Thus, following the abreaction of the abduction, therapeutic work may occur spontaneously about material which was *not* abreacted: the early physical and/or sexual abuse. Up to this point, he was unable to do so because of the nature of defenses deployed to maintain his ego integrity at a much earlier date and maintained relatively unchanged thereafter.

A clinical history serves to illustrate the point: Mike, a 36-year-old therapist, has experienced numerous puzzling episodes, scarring, missing time and deep phobic concerns since early childhood. When he chanced upon one of the popular abduction books, he read two pages and burst into tears. During the course of two or three highly agitated weeks which followed he realized that he had better seek out assistance in dealing with this material. He had no conscious memories of abduction events or UFO sightings, nor did he have any interest in the phenomenon of abductions. He was, however, interested in the paranormal. He described his live-in girl friend as a "psychic healer."

Although Mike had no conscious memory of abduction, he certainly did have burdensome and painful memories of sexual, physical and emotional abuse. Both his mother and father were poorly controlled alcoholics during his entire childhood. His father particularly but also his mother were given to bouts of violent, rageful discontrol in which he and the other children were badly beaten and otherwise abused. He described some of these episodes in poignant detail. He had spent several years in psychotherapy exploring the impact of the family disorder on his own inner life. He impressed me as having both insight into and mastery of much of this unhappy material although his capacity of intimacy and sexuality was seriously impaired. He reported a pattern of sexual abuse which, unlike the physical and emotional abuse, was vigorously denied by his mother.

Following a lengthy initial interview, we began a course of hypnosis. In the first session he noticed a feeling of pressure around his temples and crown. In response to my suggestion that he tell me more, he

proceeded to widen his focus from his head to the surroundings, then backwards in time to how he had gotten there and forward to subsequent events. He moved backward and forward several times over the episode as one memory triggered another and in response to my questions. Parenthetically, it is worthy of note that as this event unfolded, even though the memories emerged in a very different order from the entire scenario when he finally reconstructed it, nonetheless, it did conform entirely to the order found by Drs. Thomas E. Bullard, David M. Jacobs and others.

With no guidance from me (since this was not where I thought the therapeutic focus was) Mike undertook a spontaneous process of reassessment of the nature, impact and source of abuse which he has sustained during his childhood. He pursued this course in discussion with me, both in the fairly lengthy "debriefing session" (for which I always attempt to leave time after hypnosis) and by phone. He continued this process in a later therapy session with me. Mike was now convinced that although there had been serious instances of abuse and violent discontrol in his family they had been limited to physical and emotional eruptions; he no longer believed that he had been sexually abused.

His mother, a recovering alcoholic, has been willing, in recent years, to assist him in processing his memories of abuse. She readily, but with pain and grief, admitted to the physical and emotional abuse Mike remembered. They had already spent many hours processing the painful material both in the presence of Mike's therapist and by themselves by the time I met Mike. But she persistently denied that any sexual abuse had taken place. He noted this when describing his childhood to me in his initial interview.

In the course of this self-initiated and self-directed reassessment of his early life, Mike became convinced that the sexual abuse he remembered as having experienced at the hands of his parents was, in fact, a "screen memory"! He felt that the screen was to protect the episodes that took place, instead, at the hands of his abductors.

When he shared this with his mother, she concurred. He asked her yet again for information on the origin of the three-inch-long, perfectly straight old scar parallel to the long axis of the leg which he and his mother both carry on the medical aspect of their inner left thighs. She answered that she was not able to think about it but hers came from the same place as his. She felt it might have something to do with the sexual abuse he had always accused her of having known about and been party to.

Over the course of this work, Mike was able to release his mother from the position of responsibility in which he had held her for the sexual abuse he believed he had undergone. He came to feel proudly that since the abuse had happened at the hands of nontrusted others, rather than his parents and their friends, its significance was very different in his life now that he understood that. He saw his mother as impotent, not unwilling, to protect him and the difference was of great significance to him.

He had previously lived with a sense of enduring rage, the pervasive certainty that any trusting relationship would eventually lead to harm in some deep way and a sense of personal unworthiness and unlovability. With the elaboration of the abduction material, these old certainties seemed open for reassessment and positive reintegration. Not surprisingly, he reported rather dramatic and positive changes in his relationship with his girl friend. He also reported the spontaneous remission of his frequent loss of erections during intromission, which had troubled him all his sexual life.

Mike's therapy with me consisted, *in toto*, of two hypnosis sessions, two nonhypnotic sessions, and four telephone calls of about 45 minutes each. He has maintained intermittent phone contact with me and reports the maintenance of these gains after about one year.

This case history is illustrative of the detoxification of abuse memories, especially sexual abuse, after the recovery of abduction scenarios. This may be through facilitated recall, hypnosis or direct recall augmented by interviewing techniques. While the course described here is not an invariant one, it has occurred often enough to constitute a significant and noteworthy aspect of the phenomenon.

There seem to me to be two ways of understanding Mike's course. It is possible that Mike produced a new and interesting type of screen memory which defused and detoxified the actual abuse which occurred at the hands of terrestrials including his mother and father. This novel screen memory did not make itself manifest until it was retrieved from its totally obscure position in the unconscious while the event for which it was intended to stand was conscious to Mike, although denied or repressed by his mother. It is also possible that he achieved clarification based on the emergence of an accurate understanding of what actually took place when he was a child.

Interestingly, the recalled sexual abuse was never available for his mother to process although brutal and disordered behavior of other sorts was. In addition, it is noteworthy that the restructuring and therapeutic gains Mike made during and after the abduction investigation follow the course often seen in the working-through of the more common type of screen memories, not in the production of screen memories. In the more familiar case, when a set of screen memories is *removed*, not created, it allows for the abreaction and subsequent reprocessing of repressed trauma. But in the population of dual victims it appears that the abduction event functions like "real" (event-level) trauma and the "real" (event-level) trauma functions like screen memory. As with any other screen memory, its job is then to shield (thus preventing working-through) of the actual trauma. Mike's rather impressive reprocessing and reassignment

of meaning and locus of responsibility was undertaken spontaneously. It is similar to the spontaneous integration seen in other abductees with whom I have worked. The same process may be observed with regard to phobias, sexual inhibitions and other manifestations of disturbance where no abuse is ever recovered.

As an additional complexity, there have been cases in which the trauma was abundantly clear *to the patient*, but *I* could not find the traumatic abuse; the episode described clearly lacked an abusive quality although it carried abusive affect. In two cases I probed the alleged abuse very closely because of the precipitating events did not seem compatible with the level of evident distress. In other words, I had trouble finding the abuse in what was clearly an abusive experience for the child. I thought perhaps that the affect-laden event reported might be a screen memory for terrestrial abuse. In each case, however, the events surprised me.

After our hypnotic sessions, both women spontaneously returned to a reconsideration of the event that had so burdened them for years. They linked the abuse now with the abductors, not with the people they previously had held responsible. In one patient this event represented the only episode of child abuse in her memory. In the other there were many other abusive events. These remained rooted in the behavior of terrestrial perpetrators while the abduction scenario was seen to represent an event previously understood to be terrestrially-induced.

According to the theory offered by debunkers, these abduction scenarios represent an attempt of a damaged ego to deal with overwhelming trauma by creating a set of screen memories to protect itself from intolerable information and overwhelming affect. We should therefore see the dissolution and detoxification of the abduction material once the abuse is processed. Instead, we see a dissolution and detoxification of the abuse when the abduction is processed. Careful examination of the data suggests that the role of alien and human abusers may be very different from the glib explaining-away that has been offered for the abduction scenarios.

Thus, the abuse might have occurred at the hands of aliens yet be remembered as having occurred at the hands of humans because such a formulation corresponds to imperatives of nonremembering with which the victim feels compelled to comply. This may provide one possible explanation for some of the experiences reported by dual victims.

But another aspect associated with the affiliation of abuse and abduction deserves careful study and attention as well. One of the significant areas of uncertainty (among many!) in the abduction phenomenon is the issue of memory and recall. First of all, why do some persons remember some or all of the abduction scenario (whatever its origin) consciously with little or no amnesia? Secondly, does the rapid rise in the number of cases represent a real or an apparent increase in abductions or abductionlike experiences? And are these new phenomena for humankind? We know that when Berthold Schwarz examined the delusional systems of 3500 patients, he failed to find abduction reports among them. This finding has been replicated by many clinicians.

We know that analogues of UFO-like experiences can be found in the folklore and material culture, pantheon and art of many extant and extinct cultures. Given our current level of information, we cannot know whether this represents evidence of culturally-sanctioned methods for describing memories of actual UFO encounters and abductions or whether these are diverse manifestations of the consistently present inner life of the human. But we do have cause to wonder about the upsurge of cases which conform so well to the "type" as elucidated by students of the stories such as Dr. Bullard. These stories seem to spring from the experience of people who, in many cases, have had no exposure to published material. In all cases these individuals have had no exposure to the carefully guarded "check points" of the researchers and clinicians currently working in the area.

Whether the phenomenon is old or new, the increasing numbers of people showing "amnestic failure" (that is, remembering) is intriguing. If these stories are as old as the mind of man, then we need to ask why they are being recalled in the format and detail that they are now when current and fossilized folklore fails to show detail as richly abundant as we are able to secure now in these accounts. This is surprising in itself since during much of the history of humankind we have valued and placed a highly positive premium on the capacity to tell a story well and vividly; humans have often developed institutions and techniques for the honing and development of storytellers and their art.

One would therefore expect that if these encounters have been occurring over millennia and have been recorded in the global world of diverse folkloric traditions, the explicit details of these encounters would have been recalled and recorded (if there were recall to be had) and there was no barrier to anamnestic processing. One would suspect that, failing that, there might be an elaboration of imagined detail to supplement and vivify the story. Yet encounter-type tales in the folklore of the world are singularly devoid of the richness of detail and conformity-to-type present in abduction scenarios. In the modern scenarios we have good conformity to type and detail, a real or apparent amnestic failure and an apparent or real enrichment of abused patients within the abduction population. I offer to you the speculation that this conformity-to-type, amnestic failure and abuse are closely related.

When a child is subjected to abusive experiences, especially if they are repeated, severe and experienced by the child as life-threatening, they render the child powerless in intolerable ways. His very survival seems (and may be) threatened and he is flooded with

overwhelming anxiety. In order to survive psychologically and physically he must engage in a series of intrapsychic maneuvers to render the assault on his inner and outer life tolerable. Tortured, beaten, violated physically and psychologically, betrayed by the caretakers on whom he depends for emotional and physical sustenance, the child must, nonetheless, continue to look to the hands that hurt him (or allow him to be hurt) for the means to survive. He must learn to align himself with those very parts of the adult's power and mastery over him which bring about (or do not protect the child from) the intolerable. Not only does his basic trust in himself, his caretakers and the safety and benignity of the environment suffer devastating assault, his worth as a person to be loved, protected and cherished is inescapably damaged.

There is no need to recite the catalogue of damage which these experiences leave in their wake, including the deep and urgent compulsion to re-experience them as perpetrator rather than victim. Suffice it to note that it is this series of urgently necessary internal maneuvers that perpetuate the grim cycle of being hurt and hurting.

What we need concern ourselves with here is the notion that the basic, undevelopmentally-mediated organizational state of the child's ego and defenses is profoundly altered by the experience of having to cope early and often with overwhelming and disorganizing anxiety. The ability to deal with subsequent flooding of similar affect is seriously impaired. A lifelong struggle to contain affects which threaten to overwhelm and disorganize the early and fragile organization of the patient may result in various defensive behaviors familiar to therapists of every persuasion. For many people using a variety of defenses, a combination of good fortune, good constitution and good reparative opportunities may form a confluence which allows the basic resilience of the child to prevail. Abused individuals may make excellent adjustment to the demands and realities of living.

But, whatever repair is achieved, such people are vulnerable to the disruption of their defenses and internal organization through the repetition of severe, overwhelming and disorganizing affect states. Presented with more trauma and the need to repress and disremember it, perhaps their early, developmentally premature battle to construct an internal world order which would prevent the ego from dissolution is not able to sustain the amnestic requirements of full repression of the trauma. Thus, it may be simply *because* these people have been abused in important and overwhelming ways as children that they experience amnestic failure in abductions. Unabused people have more successfully organized repressive defenses. It is the abused persons who, among potentially much larger population of abductees, flooded by memories and partial memories may be unable to disremember them. They are distraught when they begin to perceive that this abusive scenario, like others, touches their lives. Yet it is they who have survived the ravages of intolerable anxiety, powerlessness and fear in a way that an appropriately protected child never has.

It may be, therefore, that the rapid and gratifying reorganization that takes place in the lives of dual victims is related to their experience as abused children. We are privileged to watch as they sort and detoxify some of their own experiences, gain perspective on them, lose their phobic states and get on with the business of getting on with their lives. It is possible that this process takes place with such profundity and fluidity (albeit sometimes with cataclysmic upheaval) precisely *because* these people *have* already learned how to survive abuse. Perhaps the healing which takes place so dramatically when we offer them the opportunity to work on this material (or when they do so without our permission) offers restitution and repair at more than one level of trauma. Further study is needed to learn more about this important and highly charged aspect of the abduction phenomenon.

For these reasons, whether or not this multiplicity of repair is going on, it is likely that there is an absolute enrichment of abused patients among abductees.

As an aside, it is interesting to note that I have never encountered an abduction patient who assigned causality to any cutaneous manifestation (scar, mark, and so on) involving terrestrial abuse which was later believed to be due to alien manipulation or vice versa. Even patients who were badly mutilated in the course of childhood make a clear distinction between the scars and marks they could explain ("Oh, that was where they tied me to the radiator and I got burned") and scars they could not explain. Often the latter are clarified through investigation of scenarios of alien abduction. It would be interesting to note whether a larger population would continue to manifest this consistency of report or whether more confusion between sources of scarring would be observed.

There is yet one more relationship which I think bears noting between abduction reports and child abuse. This relationship, like the others, is speculative and requires one further assumption before we can examine it. That assumption is that the abduction scenarios represent reports of events which occur at the event level — that is, they meet the criteria for being "real" in the generally accepted sense of the word. We have no paradigm which explains the available data as well as this assumption. All other paradigms force us either to neglect aspects that are crucial to the phenomenon or to create new, untested and unprovable realms of reality to explain away the data. We find ourselves confronting such magical notions as "the imaginal world," "the collective unconscious," "intermediate and altered states of space-time," nonphysical entities with the capacity to interact with the physical world like the Tibetan *tulpa*, "some sort of powerful, previously undefined mass hysteria capable of generating scars on

the susceptible," "stigmalike phenomena" and so forth.

The event-level, nuts-and-bolts hypothesis is, I am afraid, the best hypothesis we are able to build out of our current state of knowledge. It is useful as an approximation with which to evaluate further data in a continuing effort to refine and develop our hypothesis. Although counterintuitive, it is a perfectly good hypothesis which must be attended to even though it is a fairly unpleasant one. It may even be true!

It should be noted, however, that since this hypothesis is so challenging to our present state of knowledge, it is prudent to continue to search for other hypotheses which do less violence to our notions of the cosmos. The requirements for alternative explanations are the same as for the nuts-and-bolts ones: such hypotheses must be testable, parsimonious models which account for all of the available data and allow for prediction of future findings.

When we agree to consider the nuts-and-bolts hypothesis, it becomes apparent that we should expect an enrichment of abused persons in the total population of abductees. You will note that I specify the *total* population, not just those who recall the event. It may be that there is no relationship between early abuse and the ability to recall abduction events; it may be that there is. In any event, we would expect to find that persons who have had lifelong exposure to this type of experience and whose memory of it is barred from conscious recall will be at risk for becoming abusing parents. Therefore, their children are likely to be abused children who will, as we now know, tend to become abusers of their own offspring. Since we know that the abduction phenomenon is a transgenerational one, we should expect to see dual victims.

Why would an abductee tend to become an abusing parent? Because the abduction experience, as we understand it, is frequently a lifelong series of episodes which include terror experienced as life-threatening in its magnitude, overwhelming power wielded by strange, cold creatures who subject the child to damaging physical and psychological experiences which leave an indelible mark on the child but at an out-of-consciousness level.

Making matters even more toxic for the abductee, the opportunity to clarify the hurtful status of abuser is frequently as confused and confounded as it is for children whose parents are the abusers; many childhood abductees report that they experience a sense of kindliness, avuncular affection and friendly feeling toward (and from) the aliens. Thus, the source of abuse is affectionately perceived. As with abused children in general, as they grow older, abductees often report that these feelings of affection are replaced by other, perhaps more appropriate, reactions of fear, anger, distrust and resentment. But in the midst of what may be an intentionally-manipulated affectionate response is the associated experience of abuse. These children are probed, violated, cut, sampled, sometimes impregnated or genitally and sexually stimulated. This may be either painful or not, but it is entirely inappropriate to the level of emotional and psychosexual readiness of the child and is carried out without the consent or will of the child. Indeed, there is no way in which a child can give meaningful consent to these activities.

So the childhood abductee has the same problems as the terrestrially-abused child whose trusted adults have hurt and violated him and his body; powerful adults bring hurt and love, safety and danger, sexual excitement and gratification, and fear and pain and other overwhelmingly disruptive experiences all at once. Thus the child must incorporate and identify with the hurting and powerful one, must learn to appease and imitate the hurting and frightening one, must seek to cling to the belief that this one who can hurt me so badly, perhaps annihilate me, is also the source of my survival, indeed, of my safety and pleasure. He is so powerful that he can determine, whatever my wishes, whether I will suffer or not, whether I will be violated or not. Indeed, the act of abuse itself comes to represent a mark of love and attention for the child. He comes to believe that the abuse indicates that he has been chosen, is somehow special and favored.

Is it any wonder, then, that the abused child bonds to the abuser with an intensity that defies ordinary logic and then repeats those events that so distressed and disordered him when he has children of his own? Is it any wonder, if this experience is being lived through again and again, that these children, grown up and in their own reproductive life cycles, both bond to the aliens with intensity (often developing a Space Brothers system of belief) and repeat the violation, this time in symbolic terms, on the bodies of their own children? We must also add that these same children might be, to complete the cycle, experiencing the abduction events in nonsymbolic form at the hands of those who manipulated their parents while being subjected to the acting-out of their own parents. They are dual victims.

It seems clear to me that the need for additional study, deeply intermeshed with, not separate from, the active therapy of those who have this set of realities in their lives, is a matter of urgent public health concern (whatever we now feel the locus of the reality to be). Both adult and child members of the population under consideration must be addressed. The epidemic of sexual and physical abuse to which we are now becoming alerted may be an indicator of the breadth and severity of this phenomenon. ■

Available from CUFOS...

The Spectrum of UFO Research, edited by Mimi Hynek. 214 pp. $12.80 postpaid.

CE3 — and CE2?

by Ann Druffel

■■ Ann Druffel is coauthor, with D. Scott Rogo, of *Tujunga Canyon Contacts* (1980), an updated paperback version of which has just appeared.

A possible UFO landing case came to my attention when Cheryl Fernandez informed me of an entity-visitation report near my Pasadena, California, home. The occupants of the house were the DiGraziases (pseudonym) and their five-year-old son. Mrs. DiGrazias had been referred to the Los Angeles Abductee Support Group by Budd Hopkins, and Fernandez was assigned the case as primary investigator.

I have been actively researching UFO reports in southern California since 1957 and although several alleged landing cases have surfaced during that time, there has never been a case in which definite marks were available for lab analysis. From Fernandez's description of the circular area in Mrs. DiGrazias' backyard, the case seemed to offer definite possibilities.

Mrs. DiGrazias had alleged repeated encounters with UFO-like entities. Her experiences included a possible abduction as well as another three-hour time loss following the appearance of an unknown light in the yard. Her husband, a well-known, respected professional in the community, had also seen what he termed "people" in the house in the middle of the night but had been paralyzed and unable to move during the incident. Their young son, who remained unaware of what had happened to his parents, repeatedly told his mother that he saw "people" in his room at night and drew pictures in which he tried to describe the entities and their "spaceship."

One morning in early January 1988 the DiGraziases noticed a large circular brown spot in their backyard, in the midst of their lush, well-cared-for St. Augustine lawn. It seemed to have appeared overnight. Its large size astounded them. To the best of Mrs. DiGrazias' memory, it appeared the morning after she had awakened in the middle of the night to see a small, gray-skinned entity standing beside her, probing her lower torso with various types of instruments.

Mrs. DiGrazias, still shaken by the nightmarish incident, was afraid to investigate the circle in the back lawn too closely. She could not account for her reluctance but perhaps unconsciously linked it to the other episodes that were troubling her. At the time she knew little or nothing about UFOs and did not associate her strange experiences with them. But at the very beginning of the series of incidents, one evening in early December 1987, she had seen a bright beam of light coming down from above and shining in the backyard. She heard no noise and could not identify it as emanating from a police helicopter or any other known source. Her husband, who is often called out at night on emergencies connected with his work, was not home at the time.

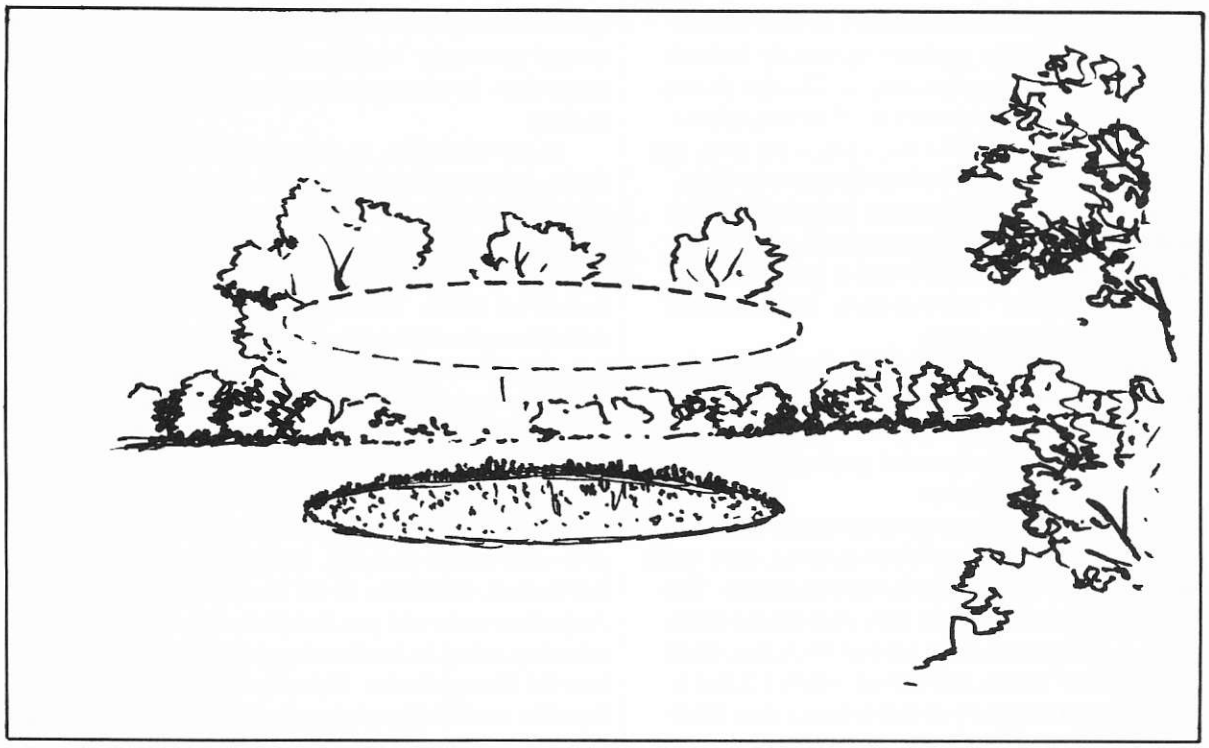
Mrs. DiGrazias could see the beam through the large windows in the back of the house and started to proceed to the window to look up at the sky, but inexplicably she changed her mind. She took an abrupt turn and headed for her son's room, in the front of the house. Shortly afterward, she saw what she assumed was the same light beam outside her son's window. It seemed to be near the house and just over the front lawn.

Three hours later after seeing the beam, Mrs. DiGrazias abruptly woke up. She was lying on her son's bed, the boy asleep beside her. Her husband had just entered the house, returning from his night work. Puzzled, she tried to tell her husband what had happened. He assured her she must be imagining things or dreaming.

When the circular spot appeared in the backyard in early January 1988, Mrs. DiGrazias realized that it was in the general area where she had first seen the bright light beam one month earlier. She discussed the incident with her gardener who after examining the spot declared that the area looked as if it had been "burned."

According to Mrs. DiGrazias' description, the area was a perfect circle with sharply-defined perimeter. Inside the circle the formerly-green St. Augustine grass was brown, squashed and covered with a white ashy deposit. In searching for an explanation, the DiGraziases remembered that in December they took the cover off their swimming pool and laid it on the nearby grass to clean it. The pool cover, however, was about three times as large as the area of the circular damaged area; although the pool cover had lain where the circle appeared weeks later, it had also covered areas of adjoining grass which showed no sign of disturbance.

The DiGraziases' gardener advised them to water the spot every day to encourage the St. Augustine grass to grow back into the area. This they did, often leaving two sprinklers going all night on the spot. But the grass failed to respond. Finally, in June, scattered sprigs of a "blue" grass began to sprout and by the first of July the circular spot was almost filled in with a bluish-green grass



(Bermuda) which was entirely distinct from the St. Augustine's grass around it. There is no Bermuda grass elsewhere in the DiGraziases' yard.

The many mysterious occurrences happening to Mrs. DiGrazias at this time caused her to feel terrified, helpless and depressed. Various incidents involving the gray entities and other unusual events took place monthly at the time of her menstrual period. At last, in early February or early March 1988 she went to a bookstore hoping to find a book on yoga to try to calm her emotional turmoil. She happened to see Budd Hopkins' *Intruders* and out of curiosity leafed through it. She was astonished to find that it recounted incidents similar to her own. She got in touch with Hopkins, who referred her to the Los Angeles abduction group of which Fernandez and I are members.

From May to July Fernandez and other members of the support group worked with Mrs. DiGrazias, helping her to verbalize what was happening to her. In late June she told Fernandez about the damaged circle in her backyard. Prior to this she had not been sure that the support group would keep the situation fully confidential and she did not want people tramping through her yard and disturbing the family and neighbors. Her husband still did not believe that the experiences she described to him were anything other than dreams or imagination, and she feared that any publicity about the damaged circle would reflect on his community status.

Once assured that her real name would not be used in published accounts and that the investigation would be conducted with the minimum of disruption, Mrs. DiGrazias on July 5 showed Fernandez and me the damaged area in the backyard. By this time the circle, 13 feet in diameter, was almost filled in with a mixture of St. Augustine's grass and Bermuda grass in the southern portion; the circular delineation in this portion was still faintly visible. The upper half of the circle, however, had the delineation of a perfect circle, and the perimeter between Bermuda and St. Augustine grasses was sharp and distinct. About five feet to the north, beyond the circle's perimeter, the St. Augustine grass was streaked yellowish-green in a swath of approximately three feet by 10 feet. Elsewhere in the yard, in the front yard as well as the back, the St. Augustine lawn was green and healthy, in shady places under trees and bushes and the shadow of the house as well as in areas of full sun.

The damaged area was centered on a knoll in a sunny spot, the top of the knoll being at least four to five inches higher than the rest of the yard. This knoll seems to be the only such feature in the entire yard.

The grass filling the circular area, at the time Fernandez and I first viewed it, had a slight bluish cast but gave the appearance of a healthy wild grass mixed with other weeds, such as oxalis. The size of the circle was measured at 13 feet in diameter from west to east, and Mrs. DiGrazias stated that the circle had had the same diameter north to south when it first appeared. The north-south diameter of the damaged area, up to the portion where Bermuda grass mixed in with St. Augustine, was approximately eight feet.

The two holes in the top of the knoll looked like

gopher holes but when we said as much to Mrs. DiGrazias, she reiterated that the gardener adamantly insisted the property had no gophers infesting it. He also denied the presence of any fungus or insects which might have caused the browned circle. The two holes were deep and irregular in shape, their entry points about two to three inches in diameter. The westernmost hole inclined into the ground at an angle of approximately 25 percent in a northeast direction. When probed with a spade handle, the hole was found to be 1 1/2 feet deep. The two holes were two feet eight inches apart.

There was a third hole less definite than the others, being only about three inches deep. The three holes formed a triangle on the top of the knoll. On a later visit this third hole could not be detected, probably due to the thickening of the Bermuda grass.

The affected area and surrounding terrain were sketched and photographed and three samples, each about 30 grams each, were taken from the damaged area. One was surface soil from a still-bare spot plus nearby grass (sample 1). A soil sample from each of the holes, taken at about two inches' depth, comprised samples 2 and 3. A control soil/grass sample was taken near a wire fence which separates the DiGrazias property from a large (one by two blocks) uninhabited area owned and managed by the local Water District. This control sample, 4, was about 15 feet east of the damaged site.

Eyeball investigation through the fence of this Water District property revealed the presence of a small concrete hut, probably associated with automatic water district machinery, an unusual white tower of uncertain origin, trees, bushes and much vacant land. Mrs. DiGrazias said that, in nine years of living at her residence, she had seen only occasional maintenance men in this area. Since it was fenced with "No Trespassing" signs, she had never explored or taken much notice of the area herself.

To the south of the damaged area, the DiGraziases' large home rises one story high. To the west the swimming pool, low shrubs and a moderately high fence separate the home from the next house about 80 feet away. To the north a big area of the DiGrazias property is without lawn but contains shrubs, a child's playhouse, a small utility building and a towering oak tree. In my estimation, if the affected area does, in reality, represent a landing place of a UFO, the most logical entry/departure "flight path," other than vertical or nearly vertical, would be to the west. A flight angle of at least 45 degrees would be needed to clear the eastern fence, and an even steeper angle would be needed to depart south or north, whereas an angle of only about 20 degrees would be needed to clear obstacles to the west.

The search for a soil/vegetation laboratory to analyze the soil, begun immediately, proved difficult. In many states extension services in local universities are made available to the public through state funding, but in California an anti-tax initiative phased out such services several years ago. Numerous UFO investigators and researchers in other states were contacted without success.

In the meantime, in August Mrs. DiGrazias' gardener, in an attempt to fill in the damaged spot in the yard, obtained her permission to fertilize the lawn. By this time Mrs. DiGrazias felt that the affected circle was clearly associated with apparent UFO activity in and around her home. The family had had no further contact with the unpleasant creatures for over six weeks and she hoped that the visits had ceased. She was anxious to eliminate the circle because it reminded her of the traumatic episodes, and her friends were asking embarrassing questions about what had happened in their lawn.

Finally, the County Agriculture Department of the County of Los Angeles in El Monte accepted a swath of grass and soil for analysis. At its request the swath was cut from the perimeter of the circle and contained part St. Augustine grass and part Bermuda. By this time the lawn was responding to fertilization and was sending shoots into the damaged area. This swath of grass and soil was found to contain four insects known as Southern chinch bugs. These insects were about 1/6-inch long and are a serious pest of St. Augustine grass. Their populations start to build up about the last of October, adults being hard to find from March through May. Shady areas act as a natural barrier for this pest, but heavy infestations in sunny areas result in heavy browning and eventual death of the sod if control measures are not applied.

According to the county pathologist who performed the analysis, damage from chinch bugs in St. Augustine grass begins in a small area and creeps outward in a circular configuration. In some instances considerable damage can seem to appear suddenly if the grass dies all at once. In view of the extent of the damage as described to him, however, the pathologist was surprised that only four chinch bugs should appear in the swatch grass given him for analysis. No other testing was available at this lab.

Mrs. DiGrazias' gardener stated to her that the chinch bugs appeared in the lawn after he fertilized it, probably because these insects are attracted to fertilized grass, but that they were definitely not present before or immediately after the damaged area appeared in January.

The situation was discussed at length with the Los Angeles UFO Research Group. It was felt that chinch-bug damage to an area 13 feet in diameter, apparently appearing overnight, was unlikely. It was agreed that it was worthwhile continuing efforts to analyze the samples of unfertilized soil from the affected area. Private facilities were finally located, but one pint to one quart of soil was required, and fees of about $500 were requested. Since the samples taken of the affected area before fertilization amounted to less than 100 grams,

continued on page 23

Starry night

by Paul Davids

■■ Paul Davids is a screenwriter and television producer.

On February 25, 1987, about 10 minutes after four in the afternoon, I was at work in my home office when suddenly I heard the sound of my daughter's panicked voice from upstairs.

As a dad you learn to distinguish between an ordinary scream, which usually relates to kids' bickering and petty disputes, and an extraordinary scream, which is like the sound of alarm for a real emergency. Though I couldn't make out what she was saying at first, I could tell at once that it was an extraordinary scream and that whatever it was couldn't wait. I ran out of my office, expecting to learn that Jordan (then age nine) or Scott (then six) had been injured. But what I heard instead was, "Daddy, come quick! I see a flying saucer!"

My first thought was, "Oh sure, right, come on, Jordan, get real. What is this all about?"

But when she kept screaming with urgency, I hurried up the stairs, practically colliding with Scott as we went through the door to Jordan's room at about the same moment.

When I looked up at the spot she was pointing to out her bedroom window, I was absolutely spellbound.

Without being well-informed I had always tended to be a skeptic about UFOs. But the adage "seeing is believing" is one of those proverbial truths that have stood the test of time. What we saw that afternoon was a metallic domed disc making its way smoothly across the sky over the valley in front of our house without making a sound. It was coming closer, and we could see it as clearly as a truck across the street.

There was no way to know whether what we were watching was the product of experimental earthly technology, perhaps from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory near Pasadena, California, several miles away (though I couldn't fathom why they would test a secret device over our old, graffiti-ridden, heavily ethnic East Los Angeles neighborhood). But it was unquestionably some technological development I had never seen before — a silent flying domed disc, under intelligent control, going about its business as if casually conducting reconnaissance of some sort, with every right to be there.

We opened the window and went out on the roof to have an unobstructed view and we spent the next four to five minutes in awe, amazement and bewilderment.

The silver disc-shaped object, with a dome on top, was flying silently, smoothly and slowly through the sky with no evident means of propulsion. It had no markings on it, no seams that we could see, no landing gear visible, absolutely no wings or fins of any kind. It had no propeller, no jets, no exhaust fumes and no antennas.

The object also had no lights or portholes. The metal reminded me of the fuselage of an airplane, but it was somewhat more like smooth pewter in texture. When it caught the late-afternoon sun at a certain angle, it gleamed, sending the bright orange sunlight from the west right into my eyes such as any reflecting surface would do. There was no question that this was a real, solid, physical object and no optical illusion.

One detail etched itself into my mind more strongly than any other. At its closest point to us, which we estimate to have been about 500 feet away, it hovered in one position for about two minutes, and at that time it had a distinguishing wobble as it remained stationary in the sky. It was an even, slow oscillation.

Months later I was amazed to read about other similar observations connected with hovering flying discs in *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* (1956) by Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, former head of the Air Force's Project Blue Book. According to Ruppelt, as far back as 1947, the first summer flying saucers were being widely reported, witnesses in several incidents described that wobble effect that I was to observe 40 years later. They called it an "oscillation around the lateral axis," and one witness estimated it to have been an oscillation of about 20 degrees; I concur — a remarkable observational agreement about two similar events separated in time by four decades.

Being up on top of the highest hill around, we had the advantage of seeing the object both from below and then from above, which is an opportunity I am told few flying-disc witnesses have had. At some moments the bottom seemed to transform from silver to pitch black, as if it were suddenly failing to reflect any ambient light from the sky or ground — and then it would seem to be silver again.

At the time this occurred, I had no inkling as to how that four or five minutes on my roof would motivate me during the next two years — that I would, within the

several months that followed, meet Don Schmitt (now CUFOS director of special investigations), who came to our home to conduct an inquiry on behalf of CUFOS — or that I would begin to read obsessively about 150 books on the subject of UFOs and meet at least a dozen other noted specialists or authors in UFO or space research, many with international reputations.

Among those with whom I spoke was archdebunker Philip J. Klass, the much-quoted UFO author who relentlessly attempts to offer prosaic explanations for every reported flying-saucer sighting, however strange — and who has been sometimes accused of distorting testimony and details in his books to make seemingly startling incidents appear to have been mundane. My close encounter with Klass occurred in 1988 on a starry night at the MUFON conference at Lincoln, Nebraska, and our conversation about my UFO sighting continued for many hours until two or three o'clock in the morning. It was by and large a friendly but highly combative conversation.

That starry night made me think of Vincent van Gogh's famous painting *Starry Night*, with its swirling stars that reach out to touch the earth with their color, warmth and energy — a starry night that would make most people look up in wonder about what hidden and undiscovered forces and intelligences are out there and perhaps making an impact on the earth even now. But Klass' mood was not at all expansive and remained down to earth throughout.

At the time I had read one of his books, *UFOs Explained* (1974). The only thing the book had ever explained to me was that Klass has never had the experience of seeing an actual flying saucer and was therefore convinced nobody else had, either.

In that book, in case after case, he portrayed specific UFO witnesses as either naive dupes, victims of honest error, tricksters who enjoy deceit or liars motivated by personal gain — and he managed to portray a Papua New Guinea Anglican priest of fine reputation as being in all four categories.

He takes a similar stance in his book *UFO Abductions: A Dangerous Game* (1988), but there he goes a few steps farther in the attempt to discredit witnesses, by making self-professed UFO abductees such as Betty Hill, Travis Walton, Charlie Hickson, William Herrmann, "Kathie Davis," Whitley Strieber and many others appear to be either unscrupulous deceivers or schizophrenics and psychopaths.

After I described my sighting to Klass, he began to address the incident by lecturing me on the subject of optical illusions. It took me half an hour to convince him to drop his abstractions about illusions ("we can never believe with certainty anything the eyes see") and begin to deal with specifics instead. I persuaded Klass that I have expertise in the subject of optical illusions (and have been conversant on the subject since I was in eighth grade, when the Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers published an article about my research in optics and calibrating cameras). I insisted that I was able, by reason of the reflections of the saucer's metal surface, its manner of movement, its descent below the skyline and its proximity to us, to rule out such a flimsy explanation.

"I just happen to think there is a logical — and probably a very simple — explanation for what you saw," said Klass, puffing away on yet another of the cigarettes he chain-smoked throughout our conversation. "I doubt very seriously that the solution requires we postulate extraterrestrial visitors from the star system Zeta Reticuli or parallel dimensions," he went on. "Tell me, do you have any playing fields in your neighborhood? Any parks where kids play? Where someone might fly a kite?"

"I live in a rough neighborhood, Mr. Klass," I said. "The kids in my neighborhood don't fly kites. I wish they did. Unfortunately, they're more interested in spray-painting graffiti on walls and having gang fights."

He exchanged a glance with a friend who was listening, a fellow member of CSICOP, the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. I could tell what they were thinking: so much for the kite theory.

"All right, let's suppose, as I'll concede for a moment for the sake of argument, that you really did see what appeared to be a flying saucer," Klass persevered. "How do you know how big it was?"

I explained that I had seen lots of police helicopters flying over the valley in front of my house and that it had seemed to be somewhere between the size of the cabin of a police helicopter and an entire chopper. As it had descended below the hill-line, it had become easier to estimate the size of the domed disc by comparing it to background objects. In fact, at one point we saw it pass over a tall pine tree.

"Did it seem to fly really fast at any time?" he asked.

"No. Not real fast. It was a slow, even descent from high above at first. Then it stopped dead in one position for almost two minutes and hovered, and I saw that wobble I told you about. I had the impression that it was 'watching' us then, but I can't be sure of that. At any rate, it stopped and hovered at its closest point to us, which we later measured at about 500 feet. Then it suddenly started moving away at a uniform speed, going faster than before."

"What was the fastest, would you say?"

"Maybe 30 or 40 miles an hour."

"And you only saw it descend? It didn't suddenly rise and shoot off into the sky?"

"That's right," I said. "It seemed to be coming down out of a cloud that was high above. Its movement was sometimes horizontal and sometimes descending."

I also explained that the flying disc had seemed to vanish when it was about a mile away and far below us.

Klass then began to ask me for other specific information. Exactly how long had we seen the object? What was its color? Did it reflect light? Was I sure it made no sound? Which way was the wind blowing?

When he had heard the basic facts, he tried to get me to budge a little bit on each of my answers, to allow room to alter my version of the facts. Would I admit it might have been a little smaller? How could I tell it was under "intelligent" control? How did I know it wasn't something filled with helium? He kept coming back to the theory that it was an oddly-shaped balloon that some kid or prankster had launched and we had merely seen the wind blow it down to the ground as the helium had escaped.

"Why do you say it was a flying saucer?" he asked me. "How would you even know what one would look like, if you'd never seen one before?"

"Well, I've seen interpretations of flying saucers in movies, of course," I said.

Klass and his CSICOP friend's eyebrows shot up — all four eyebrows moving vertically in perfect synchronization. They exchanged a knowing glance.

"So you've seen flying saucers in the movies?" said Klass, as if he were pounding a nail into my coffin. I wondered if there were anyone alive who hadn't seen a flying saucer in movies, excepting tribal aborigines in Australia or African bushmen. "And you live in Los Angeles, where they make movies? Sounds very suspicious to me. How do you know they weren't shooting a movie nearby?"

"No one creates special effects by building actual flying discs that really operate. Now, if the Jet Propulsion Laboratory has built them and was testing one over my neighborhood, that's another thing."

"Maybe that's what it was," said Klass' friend from CSICOP. "There's certainly no proof that it was a flying saucer from outer space. And don't forget, extraordinary claims require extraordinary proof."

That was the motto of CSICOP: extraordinary claims require extraordinary proof. The concept behind that motto, in fact, was used for hundreds of years to deny the existence of meteorites. Unless a witness to a meteor landing could offer extraordinary proof that the rock had really fallen from the sky, he or she could be easily dismissed as a witch or a "fantasy-prone personality."

Klass' assumption seemed to be that since I had seen flying saucers in movies, I had a preconceived notion of what they looked like. He was thinking that perhaps I had superimposed my preconceived ideas on something else, some other type of object, and he kept coming back to the theory of a helium-filled mylar balloon.

"No balloon is shaped like what I saw," I insisted. "It was a metallic craft."

"If it was floating, how do you know it was made of metal?"

"It looked like metal."

"Mylar is metal," said Klass. "Have you ever seen a mylar balloon?"

"My kids play with them," I replied. "I know what they look like — they're wrinkled, they look baggy. This was like an airplane fuselage."

"Mylar can be stretched tight. When it's stretched, it looks exactly like a fuselage. Same silver, exactly."

Klass seemed intent on turning my sighting into yet another notch on his anti-UFO laser pistol. I had quite frankly begun to wonder whether he had made a career of debunking UFOs for some larger, secret purpose. I wondered it was conceivable that he was some sort of disinformation agent for the intelligence community, and perhaps he really knows as well as any UFO witness that domed discs of unknown origin really have long been flying in our skies.

When I posed a question about that possibility, he said, winking, "Sure, I work for the CIA. Of course, they pay me to come to these conferences." But he said it in such an offhand way, with a teasing smile, that the remark seemed intended only to disarm me.

"You know, I've seen what looked like a flying saucer, too," Klass went on. "For a few moments I almost had to catch myself. It flew right past my line of vision. I thought, 'Well, how do you like that?' It was in a ballroom — in fact, at a meeting of CSICOP. The saucer flew from one end of the ballroom to the other. It turned out that a fellow named Bart Hibbs built it to impress us. Almost fooled me completely."

"It was a model?" I asked.

He nodded. "Bart Hibbs builds model saucers that really fly — very sophisticated devices," he said. "And you know what? My God, he lives near Pasadena! Probably less than five miles from you! Wouldn't it be something if it turns out that Bart was flying one of his models near you the day you saw your 'flying saucer?'"

After that night I didn't expect to hear further from Klass on the matter, but one afternoon I was surprised to receive a call from him informing me that he had spoken with Hibbs about my "case." I arranged to meet Hibbs at his home so that I could see his models. (Hibbs has shown no interest in coming to my home to see where we had the sighting or what the actual trajectory of the domed disc was.)

Suffice it to say that the very notion that I had seen a flying saucer from the roof of my home a few miles from Pasadena caused Hibbs (a CSICOP member) to chuckle with amusement. I got a real taste of the so-called laughter curtain, but I was getting used to it — ever since my son was punched out at his school by older boys who picked on him as the "kid who saw the flying saucer."

In fact, word about our sighting had evidently spread like wildfire among Southern California CSICOP members. One of them had even phoned Hibbs and said, "Jesus, to talk to Phil Klass, you'd think that all of a sudden we've got an alien invasion underway right in

continued on page 23

Billy, no; Ed, yes

by Bruce Maccabee

■■ **Bruce Maccabee, Ph.D., an optical physicist and chairman of the Fund for UFO Research, writes frequently for *IUR*.**

When I learned of the Gulf Breeze photos, my first thought was, "Sounds like another Meier." Walter Andrus evidently had the same reaction (*MUFON UFO Journal*, March 1988, p. 15) as did many other ufologists, I'm sure. Was this comparison justified? Is it still justifiable? I think the answer to both of these questions is no. My reasons for rejecting the comparison are outlined below.

In the middle 1970s, as the story goes, Swiss farmer Billy Meier took many hundreds of still photos and several 8mm movies of objects which he claimed to be spaceships to be from the star group known as the Pleiades. Meier also claimed numerous contacts with the aliens who gave him important messages for humanity and who took him on space adventures. These messages are related in his voluminous writings. For a history of the Meier sightings see the writings of Gary Kinder (GK), author of *Light Years* (1987), Kal Korff (KK) in *MUFON UFO Journal* (December 1980) and Korff and William L. Moore (KM) in *MUFON UFO Journal* (July 1982). A further source of information is the videotape made by Jun-ichi Yaoi and his Japanese film crew in the fall of 1979 (JY).

Roughly 12 years later, between November 1987 and May 1988, "Ed" of Gulf Breeze, Florida, took about three dozen photos (some are stereo photos consisting of two pictures per stereo photo) and a videotape. Ed claims to have sighted aliens on two occasions (December 2 and January 12) and perhaps on a third (December 17; this possible sighting of aliens has not previously been publicly reported). He also claims to have reviewed messages from aliens. The most comprehensive study of Ed's sightings (and the associated sightings by others in Gulf Breeze) is available from the Fund for UFO Research (an updated version of "A History of the Gulf Breeze Sightings" plus a paper discussing the analysis of the Nimslo and May 1 stereo photos as well as copies of the viewgraphs presented at the 1988 MUFON symposium). A critique of the sightings by Richard Hall and Willy Smith has been published in the *MUFON UFO Journal* (January 1989) and my response has been published in the April issue of the same magazine.

Because of the fundamental similarities in the two cases (many photos, contact with aliens) one might suppose that if one of these cases is accepted, then the other would be too, and if, on the other hand, one is rejected, the other would be also. For this reason one is likely to be surprised by the fact one case (Meier) is rejected as being good evidence for UFOs by most ufologists and accepted by a few and the other case (Ed) is accepted by many but rejected by a few ufologists.

The strong difference in opinion about the two cases results from the actual differences in the cases. This paper lists the most important differences.

(1) The backgrounds of the photographers

1A1. Billy is a poor man. He has been unemployed and has lived at government expense for periods of time (GK). He claims to have had over 300 "professions" (JY) such as night watchman, bird-breeder and iron-layer (GK). Billy has a family (wife, three children). Billy, who went public within a year of his first (January 1975) photos of Pleiadan spaceships, has supplemented his income as a result of the publicity surrounding his claims by selling literature and by accepting gifts from his followers. Subsequent investigations have shown that his first supposed UFO photos were taken not in 1975 but in May and June 1964, in India.

1A2. Ed is a well-to-do business man who would be considered wealthy by common standards. Ed has a family (wife, two children). He has had no particular interest in UFOs or paranormal events. His income has decreased considerably over the last year as a result of the publicity surrounding his sightings even though he has tried to avoid a direct impact on himself and family by refusing to let his name be used in media presentations.

1B1. Billy is not active in his local community.

1B2. Ed and his wife are active in their community and they work closely with teenagers.

1C1. Billy has emphasized a religious connection to his sightings. (He claims to be the 13th disciple of Christ.)

1C2. Ed has attributed no religious significance to his sightings.

(2) Other witnesses

2A1. Several persons claim to have seen odd lights and discs at night and to have heard strange sounds when Billy said a spaceship was near. On one occasion a ship was seen, at a distance (GK). But no one, not even his wife or family, claims to have seen a ship in daylight, nor has anyone claimed to see Billy photograph a spaceship. No one claims to have seen a Pleiadan or any "entity" that Billy might have met during a contact. When the witnesses went along to see Billy contact a spacecraft, they were left behind as Billy went beyond them into the woods and they waited until he returned (GK).

2A2. Members of Ed's family, most often his wife but occasionally his children, saw the objects he saw and were present when he took some of the photographs and the videotape. One close friend was present when a UFO was seen by Ed and his wife but not photographed (December 1987). Ed's wife claims to have seen an alien during one encounter (December 2). She was the sole witness to the UFO during the sighting in which she saw the blue beam illuminate the ground near her. Ed photographed her and the beam as she ran inside but did not see the UFO. Their daughter also saw the beam (February 7).

On one occasion (March 17) several other persons were present at the site of an event (Shoreline Park in Gulf Breeze). While the other people were in Ed's immediate vicinity, he saw nothing. They left but remained within the park after telling him they were going home. Shortly afterward (within a minute or so) Ed saw a UFO in the direction opposite to the one his friends had gone and photographed it with the SRS camera (a stereo camera made up of two Model 600 Polaroid cameras two feet apart). Ed's wife also saw the UFO. Although the other persons did not see the UFO, they did see the flashes from the two cameras. They returned to Ed's immediate vicinity and watched the pictures develop in the light of the headlights of Ed's truck. Upon investigation it turned out that their view of the direction where Ed photographed the UFO was blocked by a clump of trees and a building. Measurements made on the pictures combined with the characteristics of the SRS camera indicate that the UFO was well over 180 feet away, perhaps twice as far.

(3) Independent sightings by others in the area

3A1. No flap of sightings was reported in the area of Switzerland surrounding Billy during the time he was taking photos (1975, 1976). Townspeople did not report seeing UFOs such as Billy photographed on the days when he claimed to have taken pictures of UFOs.

3A2. A flap of sightings did occur in Gulf Breeze, beginning on the same day as Ed's first photographs. The flap peaked in March and early April. On several of the days when Ed photographed a UFO, other townspeople also reported sightings. It is estimated that well over 100 other Gulf Breeze residents sighted UFOs during the November-May time period. Some of these sightings involved multiple witnesses. Several credible witnesses claimed that the UFOs they saw were similar or identical to the UFOs pictured in Ed's photos.

(4) Nature of the contacts with aliens

4A1. Billy's contacts with aliens were pleasant. One gets the impression that he looked forward to meeting the beautiful Pleiadans.

4A2. Ed's contacts with aliens were unpleasant. The aliens were not beautiful to look at and Ed wished they would leave him alone.

4B1. Billy has presented several volumes of his writings which are purportedly based on his communications with the Pleiadans. These writings tell us about the Pleiadan civilization and philosophy and warn us about the moral failings of our own civilization. There is a pseudoreligious message in Billy's writings.

4B2. Ed's communications from the aliens have been much less lofty, nonreligious and even cryptic: "Be calm," "We won't hurt you," "In sleep you know" and so on. There is no message for humanity in the communications Ed has reported. (If there is a message it would be in the fact of the communication itself. Perhaps here the medium is the message.)

(5) Nature of the photographic evidence

5A1. Billy's still photos show classic disc-shaped UFOs in daylit country scenery. They are beautiful pictures which fit in with the general expectation of what a flying saucer should look like.

5A2. Ed's photos show nonclassically-shaped objects which do not resemble the generally expected shape. (This has been given as one reason why Ed's photos ought not to be accepted.)

5B1. Billy's pictures, at least as presented in various publications (after some retouching, apparently), are clear, well-composed shots.

5B2. Ed's pictures are generally dim and poorly composed. Usually the background is barely visible. Some details of the craft structure can be seen. Most notable are the top light and the bottom light or ring. Usually only a portion of the central structure can be discerned. Although some of his pictures are striking, they are not of the same photographic quality as Billy's.

5C1. Photographic analysis has been done on copies of some of Billy's pictures. It is said that the originals have been lost or that people don't know which are originals and which are copies. Why Billy would have treated the originals so carelessly is an unanswered question.

5C2. Photographic analysis has been performed on many of Ed's pictures. The analyses have used the originals when possible or, when not possible, excellent copies of the originals. There is no doubt as to which are originals and which are copies. Although the originals do have some scratches and marks from handling, they have been generally well cared for.

5D1. Photographic analyses of Billy's photos have turned up some overt artifacts (for example, a line above an object suggestive of a support).

5D2. Photographic analyses of Ed's photos have turned up some oddities of structural shape but no overt evidence of supports either above or below the UFO or of other means of photographic trickery (matted double exposures, reflections on glass, photographic montage).

5E1. None of Billy's UFO photos has a person other than Billy in it. A photo that included another person would provide documentation of a multiple-witness event, one witness being the photographer.

5E2. Two of Ed's UFO photos have another person present (one, taken by his wife, shows Ed; the other, taken by Ed, shows his wife).

5F1. Billy always took mono photos, i.e., used a single camera. There is no information about the distance to the UFOs in mono photos (although distance can be calculated if the UFO size is already known or if the UFO is definitely partially obscured by some object at known distance). Thus a UFO could be large and far away or small and nearby and still produce the same sort of image (assuming a sufficient focal depth). Billy's photos provide no conclusive information on the distance to the UFOs.

5F2. At the request of the investigators Ed used two types of stereo cameras (Nimslo and SRS). Photos taken by these cameras provide information which can be used to calculate the distance to a UFO because of the parallax between the photographic lenses that are separated by a short distance. The distance to a UFO, when combined with the angular size of the UFO image (from measurements on the photos and the known focal length of the camera), can be used to calculate the actual size of the UFO. Thus, a small hoax object nearby could be readily detected.

The photos that Ed took on February 26, 1988, using the previously loaded and sealed Nimslo stereo camera, show lights corresponding (apparently) to an object about 40 feet away and 2 1/2 feet long. The May 1 SRS camera photos show two objects. One of the images, which is almost identical to the Nimslo camera images, corresponds to that of a UFO 2 1/2 feet long, but this time it was about 130 feet away over the water of the Santa Rosa Sound. The other image corresponds to that of a UFO about 475 feet away over the water and about 14 feet high and 20 feet wide.

(6) Motion picture photography

6A1. Billy's movies, like his still shots, are in color and in the daylight. They show several types of "craft" similar to those he photographed with his still camera. The film has obviously been cut at a number of places, sometimes where the UFO image jumps in position from one frame to the next.

6A2. Ed's videotape was made with a video camera which has fixed focus and exposure. It was made in the dark and shows background lights and, faintly, foreground scenery. The nature of the lighting on the UFO indicates that it was the same sort of UFO that he photographed with his Polaroid cameras. The central body of the UFO glowed during the first half of the video and was dark during the second half.

6B1. Billy's movies (8mm, color) show a stationary background scene through which a "UFO" moves. There is no evidence that he panned with the motion of a UFO (which would require him to be behind the camera to turn it in the correct direction to follow the motion of the UFO). (Thus, if a hoax, he could have moved the UFO by himself.)

6B2. In Ed's videotape the scenery and background lights allow one to determine the angular field of view. The motion of the background scenery proves that Ed panned with the UFO as it moved left and right. (Thus, if a hoax, there must have been at least two persons involved.)

6C1. One sequence in Billy's movies shows a "UFO" moving left and right apparently over a tree. Upon careful inspection one sees that the motion is along an arc with its lowest point nearly over the tree and its highest points at the left and right, as if the UFO were constrained to move at a fixed distance from a point. This pendulumlike motion occurs with a periodicity of about four seconds, which is the periodicity of a pendulum bob on a cord that is about 13 feet long. As the UFO moves back and forth and around in an ellipse (as seen on the screen), it often wobbles (see my "Pendulum from the Pleiades," *IUR*, January/February).

6C2. A careful inspection of Ed's videotape has failed to

reveal any oscillations or vibrations indicative of pendulumlike movement. Although the UFO clearly moves to the left and right at varying but nonperiodic rates, it does not move along an upward-curving arc. In other words, there is no evidence that it is constrained to move at a fixed distance from a (suspending) point. Analyses of the videotape and the UFO motion combined with experimental attempts to duplicate it have provided good reasons to reject the following hoax hypotheses: (1) the UFO was a model supported more than 10 feet above the ground on a pole as someone walked back and forth; (2) the UFO was a model riding on a rail 10 or more feet above ground; (3) the UFO was attached to a model airplane; and (4) the UFO was constructed electronically using computer-aided techniques.

(7) Other physical evidence

7A1. Billy talked of being transported onto the spacecraft, but he produced no pictures (of which I am aware) depicting any phenomenon associated with that transportation.

7A2. Ed reported being lifted by a blue beam during his first sightings. He also reported blue beams seen during several other sightings. (Other witnesses in the area also reported blue beams during the flap.) Ed produced two photos showing the blue beam. One photo shows the UFO at a distance with the beam pointed downward to the ground. Another photo shows Ed's wife running into the kitchen to avoid a blue beam which came down from above.

7B1. Billy showed "saucer nests" in which the grass had been pressed down in counterclockwise swirls (GK) to witnesses. The grass did not die in the swirls, which were six feet in diameter (much smaller than the reported size of the UFO craft). Unfortunately no tests of the grass or of the soil beneath have been reported.

7B2. A circular area of dead grass was found in a field behind Ed's house. The soil was tested and found to be free of the residue of harmful chemicals. Furthermore, seeds planted in the soil grew normally. The circle was about 13 feet in diameter, which is comparable to the size of the bottom bright ring of the larger UFO shown in the May 1 SRS camera photos.

(8) Cooperation with investigators

8A1. Billy cooperated by showing his photos to anyone who came to visit. He sold photos (or copies) to people. He also willingly carried on long discussions of his contacts with anyone who would listen.

8A2. Ed has shown his pictures to investigators from various UFO groups and to various news representatives under the conditions that the photos not be used without permission. He has also willingly discussed his UFO encounters with investigators. (He spent nearly 14 hours with me on February 20, 1988.)

8B1. There is no evidence that Billy carried out any experiments which would help the investigators determine whether or not the photos were fake. He did not use a camera provided by UFO investigators.

8B2. Ed has carried out numerous experiments at my request. He has allowed his old Polaroid camera to be used in numerous experiments by others, including experiments in which attempts were made to duplicate his pictures. He has made numerous measurements and has taken test photos with his old Polaroid, with the SRS camera and with his videocamera. Ed even accepted for use a previously loaded and sealed four-lens stereo camera (the Nimslo camera) which would allow investigators to determine whether an object was close and therefore small (i.e., hoaxed) or far away.

In my experience Ed has never refused a request to do experiments that test various hoax hypotheses and provide technical information even though some of the experiments could have revealed glaring inconsistencies between his UFO photos and videotape and the test photos and videotape if the UFO photos were hoaxes.

8C1. Investigators found burned slides of model UFOs (GK, KK). Billy's explanation was that he carved models of the craft to get better pictures.

8C2. Investigators of Ed's sightings have found no models or evidence of model-making in Ed's house. Nor has anyone ever claimed to see models.

(9) Lie detection and personality analysis by professional psychologist

9A1. Billy has not (so far as I know) taken a lie-detector test.

9A2. Ed volunteered to take a lie-detector test. To his surprise he was given a second test when he returned to the polygraphist's office to receive the results of the first test. The skeptical examiner told me that he could find no evidence that Ed was lying or that he had a sociopathological personality. (Ed also passed a psychological-stress-evaluation — PSE — test of his voice during one of his early interviews.)

9B1. Billy has not, to my knowledge, been studied by a clinical psychologist (or any other professional). He has not been hypnotically regressed.

9B2. Ed was given a battery of standard psychological

continued on page 24

How to take your own Gulf Breeze photos

by Wim van Utrecht

■■ Wim van Utrecht is a prominent Belgian UFO investigator, writer and editor.

In a letter published in the September/October 1988 issue of *IUR*, Ed, protagonist of the now-famous Gulf Breeze photographic/close-encounter case, challenged everyone who questions his sincerity to duplicate his series of alleged UFO photos. I immediately set to work. The article that follows reports the outcome of my experiments.

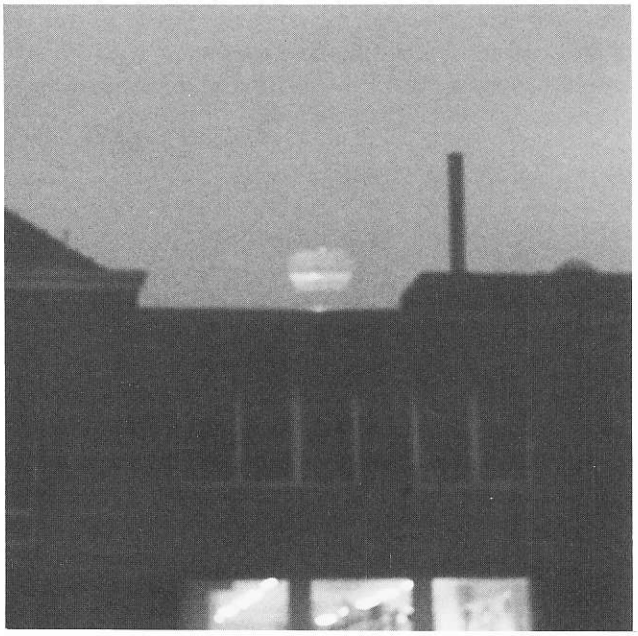
Appearing below are three photographs which were taken from my apartment in the city of Antwerp on a late afternoon in January 1989.

The first photo shows a mysterious illuminated object appearing in the northwest.

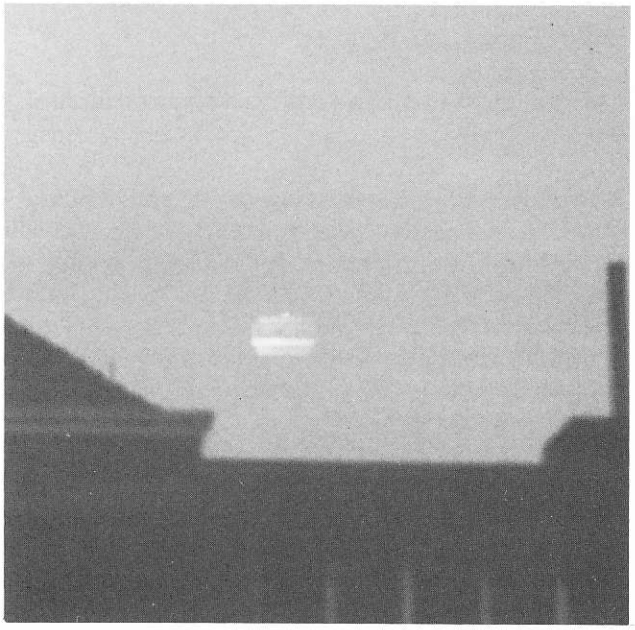
In photo 2, as the craft approaches it casts its light on the edge of the roof. Judging from the size of the reflection, we can estimate the object's diameter at about six feet. (Compare this to Ed's "road shot.")

In photo 3 the object passes behind the chimney. (Compare to Ed's "tree shot.")

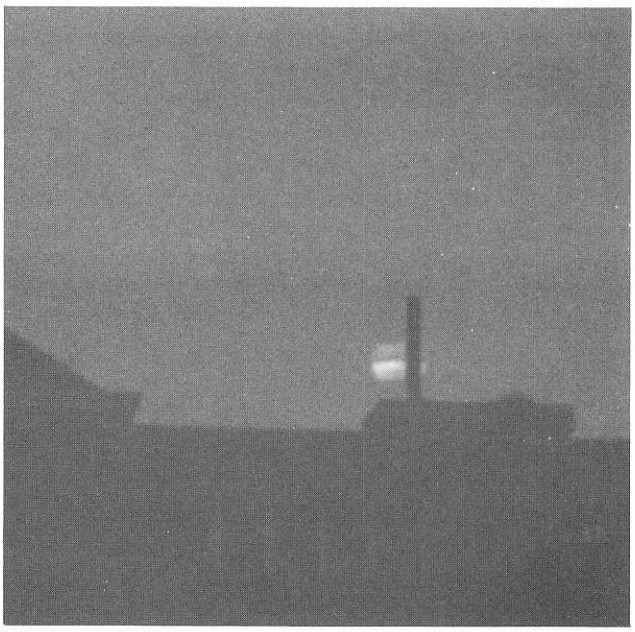
Photos 4 and 5 require little comment. The lid of a coffee pot is taken apart and a small lightbulb is inserted.



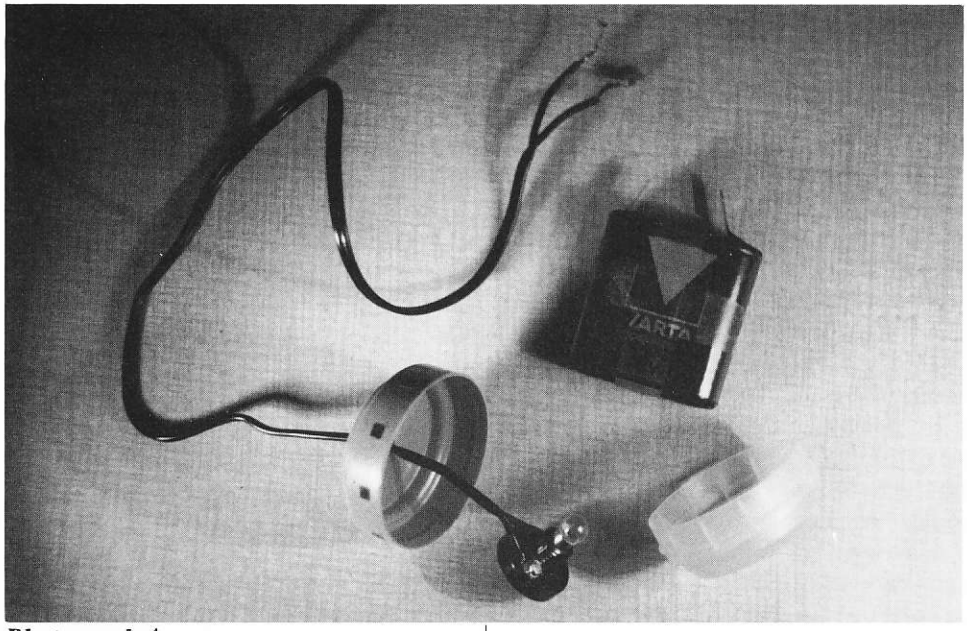
Photograph 2



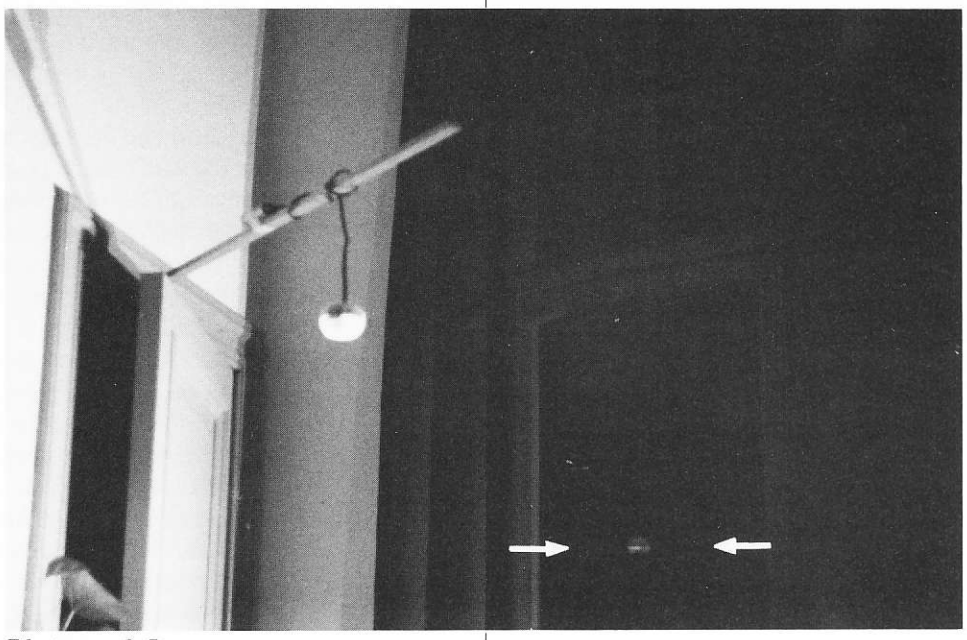
Photograph 1



Photograph 3



Photograph 4



Photograph 5

Black pieces of paper are glued around the rim to create the illusion of "dark windows." The lid is then suspended on a wire which connects the lightbulb with a battery. Mount your construction in front of a window and make sure the light from within the transparent model is reflected in the window pane. (See arrows on photo 5.) Photographs are taken from the inside with the camera pointing toward a suitable background on the outside. Inside reflections and obstacles can be used to create special effects (such as can be seen in photos 2 and 3). Total cost: $4.00.

Two objections can be raised:

(1) No Polaroid photos. I did not use an old model Polaroid such as Ed used, simply because I do not own one. I am convinced that, had I used a cheaper model, the result would have been even closer to what Ed came up with. Not only would it have given me the opportunity to verify the quality of the prints more quickly and make adjustments where necessary, it would also have unburdened me from focussing on an imaginary point somewhere in between the reflection of the model and the

continued on page 24

EDITORIAL — *continued from page 3*

UFOs and anomalies is the maxim that "extraordinary claims demand extraordinary proof." An "extraordinary claim" is perhaps easier to recognize when seen in the flesh than to define when glimpsed in the abstract, but what is "extraordinary proof?" As Capt. Ruppelt memorably phrased the question over three decades ago, "What constitutes proof? Does a UFO have to land at the River Entrance to the Pentagon, near the Joint Chiefs of Staff offices? Or is it proof when a ground radar station detects a UFO, sends a jet to intercept it, the jet pilot sees it, and locks on with his radar, only to have the UFO streak away at a phenomenal speed?"

Do such cases as the Trans-en-Provence CE2, the Roswell event, the Coyne encounter — or any of dozens of other voluminously-documented, high-strangeness incidents investigated over the past four decades by official agencies and civilian ufologists — constitute proof? Surely the failure of debunkers to come up with plausible alternative explanations that stand up to skeptical scrutiny is at least suggestive; if in the end the debunkers are proven right, it's safe to say at this stage that it will have been for all the wrong reasons, though I don't think any of us need hold his breath.

As the debunkers' case has collapsed, we have heard, implicitly in any event, a curious defense: that finally it doesn't matter that skeptical interpretations of cases don't stand up; they don't *have* to be defended and so debunkers have no obligation to respond to proponents' assaults on their pet beliefs — thus the "skeptics' silence" recently remarked on in these pages. The burden of proof is on those making the "extraordinary claims" (even though, as others have pointed out, some allegedly skeptical arguments positing the existence of dubious psychological and plasmatic phenomena are themselves extraordinary claims; moreover, on occasion debunkers have proposed explanations that violate physical laws). In other words, however feeble, unsatifactory or goofy the "conventional" explanation, nonetheless it has far more claim to credibility than the unconventional one simply because it presents itself as "conventional." Even some ufologists seem to believe this.

Of course, if this were truly a guiding principle of science, it is hard to see how knowledge could advance. Any new, surprising discovery could be shrugged off with a sneer or an off-the-cuff "explanation" which reduced the claim's threat to the sanctity of the current order. Fortunately for all of us, science does not typically act that way. In fact, as sociologist of science Marcello Truzzi has written, "The true skeptic takes an agnostic position, one that says the claim is not proved rather than disproved. He asserts that the claimant has not borne the proof and that science must continue to build its cognitive map of reality without incorporating the extraordinary claim as a new 'fact.' Since the true skeptic does not assert a claim, he has no burden to prove anything. He just goes on using the established theories of 'conventional science' as usual. But if a critic asserts that there is evidence for *disproof*, that he has a *negative hypothesis*... he is making a claim and therefore also has to bear a burden of proof.... Alas, most critics seem happy to sit in their armchairs producing *post hoc* counterexplanations."

That means, to sum up, that the only people who have nothing to prove are those who say nothing. It means, too, that debunkers must be held to the same standards of reasonableness, logic and factualness that proponents are.

It is not gullibility that causes the investigator to follow where the evidence leads. Recently some armchair critics have charged that ufology's current interest in cover-ups, crashed-disc reports and abductions is somehow evidence of rampant credulity. It certainly would be that if no good evidence existed to support these claims. Good evidence, however, exists in abundance and the deeper these matters are probed, the more interesting they become (the opposite happens with bogus claims; for a classic example, see Larry Kusche's *Bermuda Triangle Mystery Solved* [1975]). Mostly, though, these critics are not talking about the evidence, which they seldom if ever address, if they are aware of it at all. "Gullibility" is a word they hurl thoughtlessly and even irrationally.

Ufology has always had two guiding concerns: public relations and science. The latter has to do with investigation of reports and analysis of their meaning. The former has to do largely with persuading the outside world, including the scientific community, that ufology is a legitimate pursuit and that its practitioners, stereotypes aside, are not crackpots. Unfortunately, in critics' minds PR and science are sometimes confused, owing to the conflict inherent in the effort to render "respectable" a phenomenon whose manifestations may be bizarre.

When ufologists (or anyway some of them) declare that the UFO phenomenon may be indicative of extraterrestrial visitation, they are saying a mouthful at the outset. Seeking to argue this fantastic idea in a manner that minimizes its sensational implications, ufologist-proponents of the extraterrestrial hypothesis present the most conservative reports as their evidence — even though these conservative reports are not entirely representative of the larger UFO phenomenon. Thoughtful ufologists know exactly what they are doing and they do not confuse the public version of the phenomenon with the phenomenon they are encountering in the field, and they do not let PR considerations affect the science (or would-be science) of investigation and analysis.

After all, they know that, from a purely objective view, given the premise of visitation by biological entities in technological vehicles, CE3s and crashes are no more inherently implausible than anomalous nocturnal lights and gravity-defying daylight discs. Given the reality of the latter, why are the former any harder to believe? They would be harder to believe (and their

proponents would be credulous fools) only if evidence for them did not exist. Since evidence exists, it would be odd indeed if ufologists did not follow it, if instead they directed their loyalty to the PR version of the phenomenon as the armchair critics, who substitute respectability for logic, demand they do. In any case, if alien visitation is occurring, why would we not *expect* its manifestations to be highly strange to us? Why should we not expect alien activity (if that is what UFO reports represent) to be truly alien — i.e., bizarre? If such high strangeness were not a significant aspect of some of the best reports, there would be no reason to assume the reports had anything other than mundane earthly causes.

One ought not to have to say it, but it is, alas, necessary to observe that UFO question, like any other question, in the end will be solved by the strength or weakness of the relevant evidence. It will not be solved by the reckless use of epithets. "Gullibility," which is certainly out there (it is safe to say that those who believe lunatic tales about man-eating ETs are gullible), is a perfectly good word, but it's also a loaded one. If it's to continue to mean anything, use it with care. — *Jerome Clark*

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

CE3 — and CE2? — *continued from page 12*

it was decided to keep the samples for critical testing, such as thermoluminescence, radiation and other tests which would be essentially nondestructive of the irreplaceable, unfertilized samples.

After Prof. Edward Zeller of the University of Kansas' Space Technology Center expressed interest in the soil samples, a fifth soil sample was taken on October 7 from the northern part of the DiGrazias property. This sample was taken about 40 feet southeast of the damaged site, in an area least likely to be in a hypothesized craft's "flight path." The five samples were sent with accompanying report and sketches, and we are awaiting Dr. Zeller's results. When they are available, they will be reported in *IUR*. ■

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Starry night — *continued from page 15*

South Pasadena! Which of your UFO models were you flying out there that day, Bart?"

The answer to that question was none.

Bart Hibbs is an aeronautical engineer and the son of Al Hibbs of the Jet Propulsion Lab. (Dr. Al Hibbs is reported to be either an archskeptic about UFOs or a secret member of MJ-12, depending upon which ufologists one reads.) With all due respect I found Bart Hibbs' two saucer models to be extremely flimsy, unsophisticated and disappointing. One was a propeller-driven mylar balloon which looked precisely like an oval, wrinkled mylar balloon — and the other had a balsawood frame and looked vaguely like a disc-shaped model airplane, complete with plastic landing wheels, obvious propeller and a pointy, oversized tail fin. Unfortunately, it was broken and in no condition to fly.

After Klass' build-up I had expected to see something more — something that might possibly pass for an actual flying saucer. To suggest that a model such as the ones Hibbs showed me could have been responsible for getting me so excited was preposterous. Yet this was where Klass' armchair investigation had led him.

In a recent issue of *Omni*, Klass was quoted as saying he had wanted to retire from the UFO field some years ago but then the many abduction claims had come along and he had decided to stick with it. He stated, "It's sort of like being Sir Edmund Hillary and you have climbed Everest and if someone suddenly says, 'Hey, we have discovered a higher mountain,' you can't just say you are tired of climbing mountains."

After my experience with him, I would never dream of comparing Klass to Sir Edmund Hillary. If I were looking for comparisons, I would probably pick an example from somewhere in northern Africa, the natural habitat of ostriches.

What we saw on February 25, 1987, was a technological vehicle, which was obvious by the way it flew, then stopped, hovered and oscillated for about two minutes and then changed its direction and continued flying on a straight, descending course for about a mile. It was circular, metallic in appearance and domed, and it never made a sound. CUFOS determined that it was flying directly against the wind and then perpendicular to the wind, because storm clouds from behind crept up on us and began to rain on us while we were standing on the roof watching the disc approach, hover and then depart. The riddle of who constructed it, why it was flying there and where it went is a mind-boggling mystery which has baffled me ever since.

A few months after meeting Bart Hibbs, I spoke out about UFOs on a Midwestern radio show in a telephone interview arranged by Don Schmitt. A few days after that, I received something from Klass in the mail. The envelope did not have a letter inside. It contained an ad clipped from a mail-order toy catalog; it showed a commercially-marketed, flimsy, mylar, helium-filled airship balloon with a propeller. The device sold for about 80 bucks. I took it to be Klass' final word on the sort of object he concluded my children and I had "mistaken" for a flying saucer. ■

(c) Paul Davids

Coming in *IUR*...

The trouble with UNICAT
by Paul Fuller and Wim van Utrecht

CE3 at a naval base
by Donald A. Johnson

Billy, no; Ed, yes — *continued from page 19*

tests by a clinical psychologist. He was found to be normal by all conventional standards. He has also been regressed hypnotically a number of times by a clinical psychologist. These regressions have turned up previous abduction experiences. ■

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

How to take — *continued from page 21*

building on the other side of the street. A "problem" is what you have when you use a more sophisticated (but still cheap) Zenit 12XP camera, as I did. It is far more easy to estimate variations in distances from a high-quality photo than from one taken with an old model camera which has no distance regulation.

(2) No stereo photos. What makes me suspicious about Ed's stereo pictures is that they are markedly different from, and far less spectacular than, his first series. In fact, they show little or no detail at all. The patches of light that can be seen on them may be explained in many different ways. In fact, we have only Ed's word for it that they were not created by ordinary light sources. Consequently there is little point in trying to duplicate this series as well. Not only would I have to start looking for a good location, I probably should use comparable camera equipment, which I do not have.

Still, Ed will have to agree that I succeeded fairly well in duplicating his UFO photos. It did not take me much time, nor did I have to spend big money in doing so.

Perhaps it would be useful to have my prints analyzed as well and to compare the outcome with Bruce Maccabee's findings on the Gulf Breeze photos.... ■

Upcoming conferences

This year's MUFON International Symposium will be held on July 1-2 at the Aladdin Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. For information on accommodations, write the Aladdin Hotel, Box 93958, Las Vegas, Nevada 89193, or call 800-634-3424.

Scheduled lectures include the following: "The Mansfield Helicopter Case," by Jennie Zeidman; "A Survey of UFO Vehicle Disruptions," by Donald A. Johnson, Ph.D.; "A Hypothetical Plan for Crash/Retrieval," by Don Berliner; "Above Top Secret," by Timothy Good; "The Status of the UFO Situation in 1989," by William L. Moore; "An Update on MJ-12," by Stanton T. Friedman; "Recent Field Investigations Into Claims of UFO-Related Injuries in Brazil," by Jacques Vallee, Ph.D.; and others. A panel discussion of cover-up claims is also scheduled. Advance registration, for $35 for person, should be mailed to John Lear, 1414 Hollywood Boulevard, Las Vegas 89110.

The contactee-oriented Rocky Mountain Conference on UFO Investigation takes place at the University of Wyoming at Laramie between June 29 and July 1, hosted by R. Leo Sprinkle, Ph.D. Among the speakers are Vicki Cooper, editor of *UFO* magazine; documentary filmmaker Linda Moulton Howe; and Edith Fiore, Ph.D., author of the forthcoming *UFO Encounters*. Write Conferences and Institutes, Box 3972, University Station, Laramie, Wyoming 82071, or call 800-423-5809.

Later in the year, on November 11 and 12, Omega Communications (Box 2051P, Cheshire, Connecticut 06410) sponsors a conference at the Ramada Inn, North Haven, Connecticut. Whitley Strieber, William L. Moore, David Webb, Jerome Clark, John Keel, Walter H. Andrus, Jr., Michael Grosso, Kenneth Ring and others will discuss UFO research from a variety of perspectives.

Available now...

Journal of UFO Studies, Vol. 1, No. 1, new series, with three major papers: Thomas E. Bullard's "Hypnosis and UFO Abductions: A Troubled Relationship"; Erol A. Faruk's "The Delphos Case: Soil Analysis and Appraisal of a CE2 Report"; and Michael D. Swords' "Science and the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis in Ufology." *Plus* an issues forum on the abduction controversy with contributions by Robert A. Baker, Peter M. Rojcewicz, Stuart Appelle, D. C. Donderi, Hilary Evans, Jean Mundy, Michael D. Swords and Richard F. Haines. *Plus* book reviews by Mark Rodeghier and Ron Westrum. 174 pp. *JUFOS* is the only refereed scientific journal concerned exclusively with UFO research, methodology and theories. Available from CUFOS for $15.00 postpaid.